



REMARKS

This amendment is submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 and is responsive to the Office Action dated March 15, 2004 pursuant to which all the claims in the case (i.e., claims 1, 3 and 5 - 11) stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

In applicant's amendment filed December 4, 2003, the title of the invention was changed, but there is no mention of this in the current Office Action. Clarification is respectfully requested.

The present Office Action makes the action final. In support of this, *three new* references have been cited and relied upon; namely, US Patents 4,690,967 to LaGarde, et.al, 3,310,521 to White and Japanese Abstract 73,014,145 B assigned to Osaka Titanium Co. Of these newly applied references, the patent to LaGarde, et.al. is cited as the primary reference.

In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that making this action final is premature and its withdrawal is respectfully solicited.

Per this amendment, claim 1 has been further amended to more succinctly define applicant's invention and distinguish it from the cited and applied references.

US Patent 4,690,967 to LaGarde, et. al. has been combined with US Patents 6,197,359 B to Llorente Hompenera, 3,310,521 to White and 6,063,894 to Phipps, et.al as well as with Japanese Abstract 73,014,145 B assigned to Osaka Titanium Co. to support the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of all the claims now under consideration.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The patent to LaGarde, et.al. discloses organopolysiloxane compounds obtained by incorporating a plurality of additives into hot silicone compositions. (Col. 3, ll. 43-46) The compositions contain an organopolysiloxane gum reinforcing additive; an organic peroxide; and, at least 3 out of 4 fillers selected from the group of fillers consisting of an organohydrogenpolysiloxane, an organofluorinated polymer, an organopolysiloxane compound and a boron compound. (Col. 3, l. 63-Col. 4, l. 7). The compositions are obtained using known mechanical mixing means followed by heat curing and post-heat curing. (Col. 12, ll. 7-37). The products obtained include gaskets, sections, tubes, sealing rings, headlamp lenses, sparkplug caps, door and window frame seals, seals for oven and refrigerator products, tubes for blood transfusions and dialysis, nipples, plugs and plates for food insulation (i.e.; hot plates) (Col.12, ll. 59-55 and Col. 13, ll. 3-9).